

**A**s a victim or witness, the days and months ahead may be stressful for you and your family. The Missouri State Highway Patrol is concerned about what you may experience as a victim or witness of a crime. It is our policy to recognize and support you as an essential element to effective law enforcement.

The Patrol is committed to providing the best and most modern law enforcement technology available. We maintain a complete and comprehensive criminal laboratory that includes fingerprint identification, ballistics and handwriting analyses, as well as extensive analytical capabilities. But, we still need your help.

Even though this may be a difficult time for you and your family, we need your continued support in our efforts to apprehend criminals and bring them to justice. The criminal justice system relies upon victims, witnesses, and the community to help hold criminals accountable for their actions. In return, victims and witnesses deserve to be treated with fairness, compassion, and dignity.

This brochure is designed to provide you with some basic information and resources available to you through the Patrol and other agencies. If you have any questions or need assistance, please contact the investigating officer, prosecuting attorney, or the Patrol's Victim Hotline at 1-888-773-1800.

## Victim and Witness Tampering – It's Against the Law

If you are a victim of a crime, or are acting on behalf of any such victim, and attempts have been or are being made to intimidate, prevent, or dissuade you from:

- ◆ Making a report of such victimization to an officer, prosecutor, or judge;
- ◆ Causing a complaint, an indictment to be prosecuted, or assisting in the prosecution of;
- ◆ Arresting, causing, or seeking the arrest of any person in connection with such victimization:

***This is in violation of the law.***

If, as a witness of a crime, attempts have been or are being made to persuade you:

- ◆ To disobey a subpoena or other legal process;
- ◆ To absent yourself or avoid subpoena or other legal process;
- ◆ To withhold evidence, information, or documents or to testify falsely;

**and someone:**

- ◆ Threatens to cause harm to any person or property;
- ◆ Uses force, threats, or deception;
- ◆ Offers, provides, or agrees to provide any direct or indirect benefit or gain for such witness;
- ◆ Communicates any of these to someone else in order to conspire with them:

***This is in violation of the law.***

Please inform the investigating officer or prosecuting attorney if any of these are occurring in your case. A court with jurisdiction over a criminal matter may issue a protection order in certain instances.

## Rights for Victims and Witnesses

The prosecutor and all agencies shall cooperate to afford victims and witnesses the following rights and services. To secure your rights, provide the prosecutor with a written request. The right to:

- ◆ Reasonable protection from the defendant or any person acting on behalf of the defendant from harm and threats of harm arising out of your cooperation with justice efforts.
- ◆ A secure waiting area during court proceedings.
- ◆ Information about the crime and case status.
- ◆ Attend all proceedings at which the defendant has such right to attend.
- ◆ Notification by the prosecutor in a timely manner when a court proceeding will not go on as scheduled.
- ◆ Information about the filing of charges, hearings dates, continuances, and final disposition of the case.
- ◆ Confer with and be informed of bail hearings, guilty pleas, hearings, sentencing, and probation revocations hearings.
- ◆ Be heard at such hearings via personal appearance, written statement, video tape, or audio tape victim impact statement.
- ◆ Information about procedures to be followed in order to apply for and receive any witness fees.
- ◆ Information about the right to restitution.
- ◆ Information about victim compensation assistance, and access to copies of completed, unaltered, unedited investigation reports upon request to the appropriate agency.
- ◆ Employer intercession in order to prevent discipline of a witness by their employer for honoring a subpoena or participating in the preparation of a criminal proceeding.
- ◆ Expedited return of property.
- ◆ Creditor intercession services by prosecutor.
- ◆ Notification when a defendant is released or escapes from custody (current address must be provided for notice to be given).

Refer to 595.200 RSMo for a complete listing of rights for victims and witnesses.

## FOR YOUR INFORMATION:

The Prosecuting attorney for

\_\_\_\_\_ County is

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

## Crime Victims' Compensation

As a victim of crime, if you have suffered injuries that have caused:

- ◆ A financial loss of at least \$50 out-of-pocket expense, or
- ◆ A loss of two continuous weeks of earnings or support from employment,

you may be eligible to receive financial assistance from the Crime Victims' Compensation Fund. For further, specific information about this fund, expenses that may be covered, or for an application and brochure, you may contact:

**1-800-347-6881**

## VICTIM HOTLINE

**1-888-773-1800**

## EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE

**1-800-525-5555**

**or CELLULAR \*55**

## ROAD CONDITIONS

**1-800-222-6400**

**or 573-526-8828**

## MSHP HEADQUARTERS:

Troop A – 816-622-0800 (Lee's Summit)  
Troop B – 660-385-2132 (Macon)  
Troop C – 314-340-4000 (St. Louis)  
Troop D – 417-895-6868 (Springfield)  
Troop E – 573-840-9500 (Poplar Bluff)  
Troop F – 573-751-1000 (Jefferson City)  
Troop G – 417-469-3121 (Willow Springs)  
Troop H – 816-387-2345 (St. Joseph)  
Troop I – 573-368-2345 (Rolla)  
General Headquarters – 573-751-3313

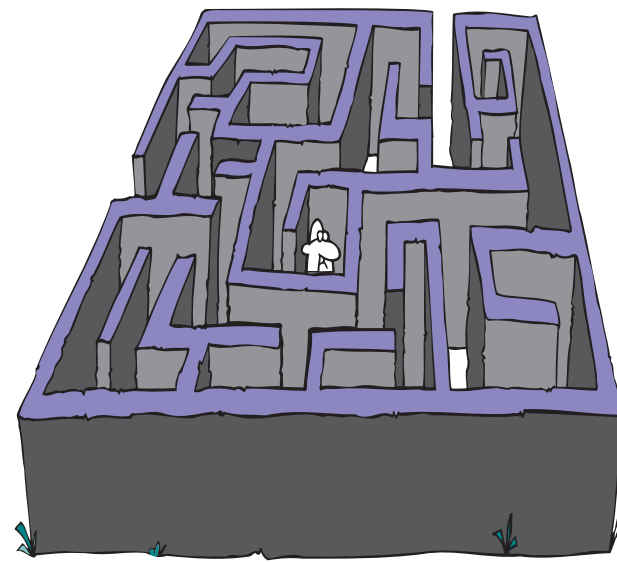
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# Which Way To Turn?



## Victim/Witness Information



**Missouri State  
Highway Patrol**